CHAPTER 15: THE SUN AND CAPPUCCINO

HMMM.

HM.

HM.

I DID IT!

PUDDING

LET ME TRY IT.

munch

I-I-I FINISHED, MANAGER-SAN!

IT'S DEL-ECT-ABLE.

I-

NAH, IT'S NOTHING, I JUST HAD A LOT OF TIME OFF SO I STARTED MAKING SOME SWEETS.

IT'S REALLY GOOD.

GIMME GIMME

HMM, I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD THIS IN YOU...

THIS COMBINATION IS AS GOOD AS THE "MARRAIGE" CHOCOLATE AND COFFEE.

AT FIRST GLANCE IT SEEMS TO JUST BE PUDDING, BUT CHOCOLATE IS BAKED INSIDE.

I WOULD LIKE TO PUT THIS ON THE MENU.

IF YOU DON'T MIND,

HM...

TAP

KIRARI!?

FUGU!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A TALENTLESS PERSON.

smile

NO ONE'S EVER LIKED SOMETHING I MADE BEFORE.

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID... I WAS BORING AND TALENTLESS.

there there

NO... UM... I'M GLAD...

MAYBE NOT THAT.

(harmony)

THE "SMOOTH STRANGE SURPRISE AT YOUR FIRST GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE☆ PUDDING"

I HEREBY CHRISTEN THIS...

CHAPTER 15: THE SUN AND CAPPUCCINO

HUH?

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED AS A MAID?

♪

whOOsh

HM.

I'M STARTING MY JOB HERE TODAY.

I OFFERED TO HELP KIRARI-SAMA AND LUCIO-SAN OUT WITH THE CAFE.

HE SAID I SHOULD FEEL FREE.

alone...

AHAHA

YAAY YAAY YAAY

I guess I gotta help out, right?

HUH?

MISTER!! WOULD YOU MIND IF I WORK HERE TOO!? IT'S OKAY, RIGHT? ☆

HUH? WELL...

SHE DOESN'T NEED MONEY? WHY?

HUH? INT-ERN?

SHE'S AN "INT-ERN".

AKANE TECHNIC-ALLY ISN'T WORKING HERE.

IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

she can't work yet.

STEP STEP STEP

HAHAHA

TEACHER

STEP STEP STEP

no, it looks better on you, Kirari-sama.

wow, that looks good on you Akane-chan

STEP STEP STEP

HYAN !?!?

GRAB

STOP FUCKING WITH ME...
YOU'RE TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME BUT YOU HAVE SUCH A SELF-INDULGENT BODY...
YOU...
I'VE NEVER SEEN MANTEN-CHAN THIS ANGRY BEFORE!!
STOP FUCKING WITH ME!!!

Manten
17 years
young

Kirari
16 years
old

Akane
15 years
old

WELCOME, MASTER ☆

HAS BEEN DESECRATED...

MY STYLISH TEAHOUSE...

AAH... MY CAFE...

HOW ABOUT SOME "SUNNY PUDDING"!?

New

Sunny Flandre $6

Combo+drink $9.50

OKAY!☆ HERE'S THE NEW MENU!

CERT-AINLY!

OKAY, THAT A PUDDING CAPPU- AND... CCINO...

Grab

SEASIDE CAFE

HUH?

FOR THAT CUST-OMER.

I THINK YOU SHOULD WATCH OUT

hush

HEY, HEY, KIRA-PIPPI,

IS A STALKER.

THAT GUY...

CREEP II

WHY ARE THEY SMUG ABOUT IT...

AS ONE MIGHT SAY, GAME RECOG-NIZES GAME.

'CUZ WE'RE STALKERS TOO.

SMUG

SMUG

WHA!?

H-H-HOW DO YOU KNOW!?

SIGH

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SIR. ☆

GLANCE GLANCE

TWITCH TWITCH

GLARE

BUT WOULD YOU MIND REMOVING YOUR HAT AND SUNGLASSES WHILE IN THE CAFE?

I'M YOUR CUST-OMER!

I HAVE RIGHTS YOU KNOW!

IT'S MY PRERO-GATIVE TO WEAR THIS.

W-WHY?

HUH?

HUH?

"GUIL-TY"

WHAT AN ATTI-TUDE.

HE MUST BE...

.....

GYAA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

STALKING KIRARI-SAMA IS PUNISH-ABLE BY DEATH!

YOU CREEPY MOTHER-FUCKER! SHOW ME YOUR UGLY FACE!

OH MY?

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?

dorted

STO-

IT'S YOU...

AH.....

LUCIO... SAN...

LU...

.....

YOU'RE LUCIO-SAN'S STAL-KER!?

EH?

...

BANG

FOR THE LAST TIME I'M NOT A STALKER!!!

OH MY...

angry angry

WELL MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK AND ACT SO CREEPY THEN.

HE OWNS A CAFE?

HE OWNS THE MURAKAMI TEAHOUSE, BEHIND THE STATION.

THIS IS MURA-KAMI-KUN.

AH, PERHAPS THAT TIME...

MURAKAMI-KUN'S CAPPUCCINO IS A WORK OF ART.

UH,

AND IN A DISGUISE ON TOP OF THAT.

UH,

HMM... IF YOU OWN YOUR OWN CAFE WHY ARE YOU HERE?

!?

UOOOOOOOOH!!!

BWAAAH!

I'M... THINKING ABOUT CLOSING THE CAFE...

BUT... THESE DAYS...

NONE OF THE CUSTOM-ERS... APPRECIATE ITS TASTE AND SMELL...

I POURED MYSELF INTO HONING MY CRAFT AND MAKING WONDERFUL COFFEE.

YOU HAVE MORE FOOT TRAFFIC THAN EVER...

ON THE OTHER HAND...

TO FIGURE OUT YOUR SECRET...

SO I CAME HERE IN SECRET TODAY...

YES?

LUCIO-SAN,

YES, IT'S CLEAR AS DAY!

SO? DID YOU FIND ANY-THING?

HMMM...

!?

YOU HAVE BEEN CORR-UPTED!

AND YET... AND YET...

I THOUGHT WE WERE PEERS...

I RE-SPECTED YOU...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A FELLOW COFFEE APPRECIATOR...

?

BOOM

WHAT'S UP WITH THESE!!!

AND THEY CHOSE TO WORK HERE, I DIDN'T...

THEY'RE NOT MAIDS...

I WAS WRONG... I WAS SO WRONG...

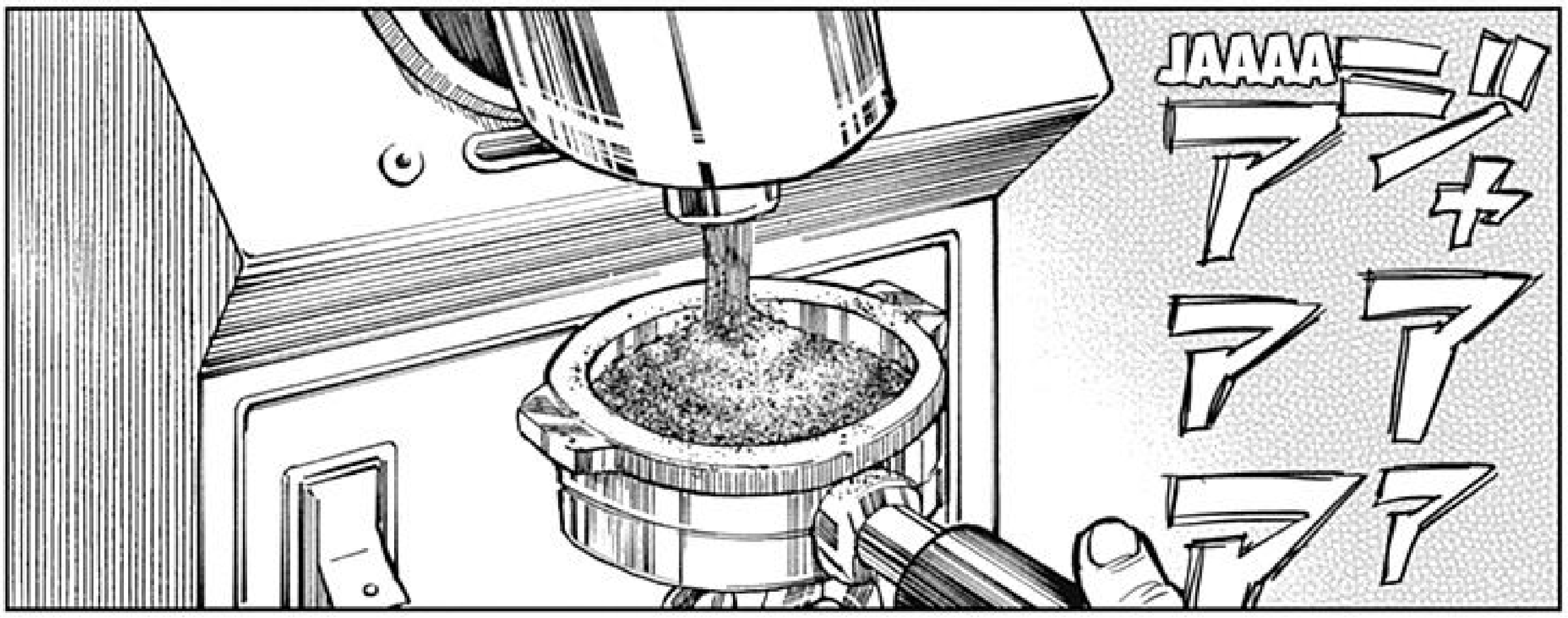
AND ONE IS EVEN A CELE-BRITY...

YOU'RE THRIVING WITH THREE MAIDS OVER HERE...

YOU... SOLD YOUR SOUL TO THE MAIDS!!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!!

AAAA


JAAAA
CLUNK
CLUNK
pour
pour
pour
PSSSSH

MY BREWING CAREER IS OVER.

WITH THIS,

PARTNER.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING,

WHAT IS THIS?

AH;

IS MY LIFE FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES?

CRASH

GUH

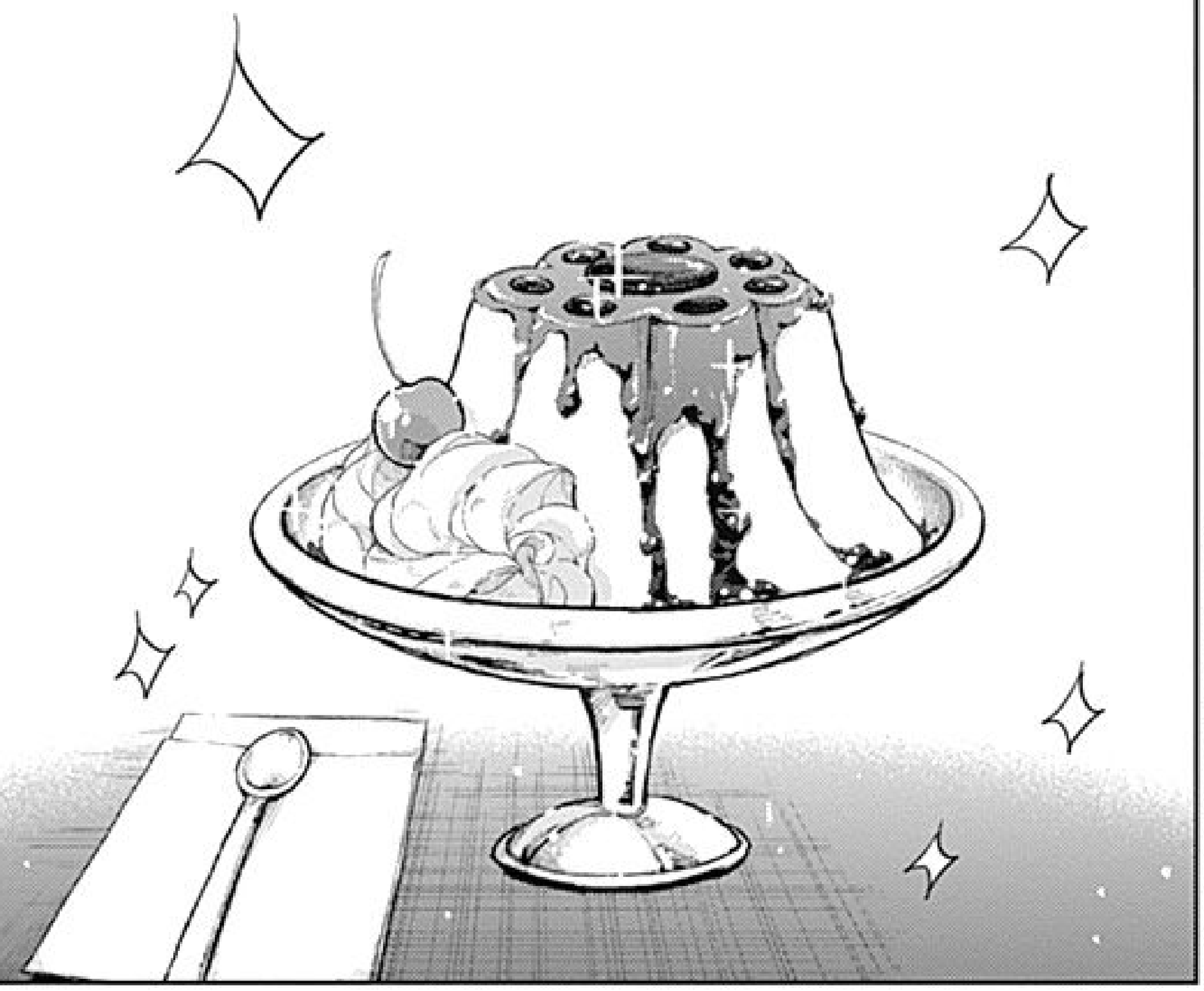
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING! HERE'S ONE SUNNY PUDDING!

TAP

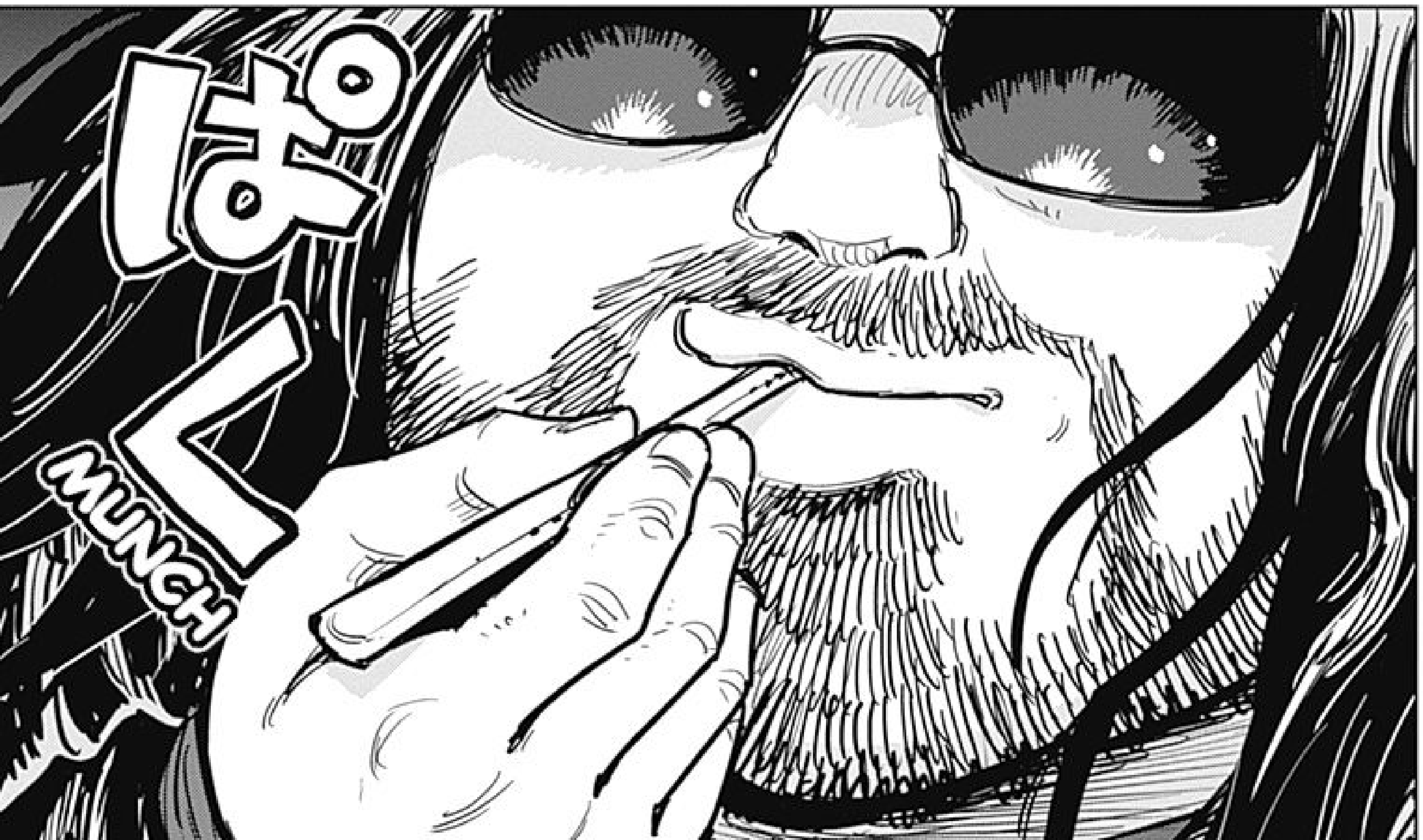
コト

WHAT?

WH-



SURE...
AH...


MUNCH

ATH
PIZZA

DEATH

MURAKAMI-KUN'S SHOP REOPENED?

EH?

THAT WOULD BE QUITE NICE.

HOPEFULLY HE VISITS US US AFTER HE REOPENS!

YEP! HE SENT A LETTER THIS MORNING!

SURE!

WHY DON'T WE PAY HIM A VISIT, THEN.

IT SEEMS SOME INVISIBLE FORCE TOOK ME OVER.

LUCIO-SAN,

FOR ME TO FORGET MY CUS-TOMERS.

PURSUING THE ULTIMATE TASTE WAS AN EXCUSE

AND EVEN THOUGH I PUT MY ALL INTO IT,

ALL I NEED TO DO IS MAKE COFFEE TASTY,

I FELT A LONG FORGOTTEN SUNNY WARMTH.

BUT WHEN I HAD THE COFFEE AND "SUNNY PUDDING" AT YOUR CAFE,

I WANTED TO MAKE A CAPPUCCINO THAT COULD LIFT SOMEONE'S SOUL LIKE THAT.

THEN IT HIT ME,

MURAKAMI'S MAID CAFE

I WANTED TO MAKE A SUNNY CAFE.

The truth is I was only jealous of Lucio-san, and comparing yourself to others always leaves you feeling worse. I was using ideals as a mask for my damaged pride. I honestly like maids But I held that feeling Back so long it Became suffocating. From now on I'm going to Be more honest with myself and enjoy coffee and maids alike.

-Sakio Murakami

Kaisermutt Translation Notes

Thanks again to Watawheel for the raws.

On page 4 he says 超美味 (choubimi, very tasty) with the furigana グレートヤミー (great yummy) He compares the way the chocolate is hidden to 隠し玉 (kakushidama, hidden ball trick). Apparently it's a baseball thing where a fielder tricks the runner into thinking they threw the ball when they didn't, then when the runner gets close the fielder pulls their balls out. I didn't maintain this metaphor because look at that fucking speech bubble.

I don't think we've seen the manager's name before this chapter. His name is 流汐, normally read as Sena, with furigana ルシオ (rushio, lucio) It's written in katakana, which isn't standard for name furigana, which makes me think it's supposed a foreign name. This is similar to Soru (arugably "Sol", who in previous scans was called Taiyou), except 太陽 read as Soru is a name in circulation, unlike 流汐. In the end I settled on Lucio.

Kirari laughs like kya kya and Akane laughs like ufufu. Manten doesn't laugh.

On page 8 Manten says 巫山戯流な (fuzakeruna, don't fuck with me) dictionary form+な is very common as "don't", but this is the first time I've seen a verb use kanji outside of its stem, I'd normally expect ふざけるな, or 巫山戯るな if you want to be fancy. I checked, and 流 is the Man'yougana for る. Man'yougana is the pre-hiragana/katakana system of writing that took random kanji and only used them for their phonetic value (kind of like the way Phonecian may have developed) I have absolutely no fucking clue why it's being used here.

On page 9 Lucio makes a pun on 純喫茶 (junkissa, simple coffee shop), and 不純 (fujun, impure).

太陽のプリン doesn't have any furigana so it could be Taiyou or Soru. Because of Murakami's extensive references to the sun in his letter I went with "sunny pudding"

The exact wording of Akane on page 11 is 同族の匂いはすぐ嗅ぎ分けられます (It is easy to sniff out the scent of the same house.)